

CHIEF WALSH DIES IN FIRE AFTER SAVING HIS MEN

MERCANTILE PRESIDENT, TRAPPED IN VAULT RUINS, RESCUED BY FIREMEN

Wm. Giblin, Head of Safe Deposit Company, Dragged Helpless From Ruins After Being Imprisoned for Two Hours.

The rescue of William Giblin, President of the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company, the offices of which occupy the northeast corner of the Equitable building, was the dramatic feature of the big fire. An hour after he had been given up for dead, firemen passing a basement window on the Broadway side heard faint calls for help. They found Mr. Giblin clinging to the steel bars of the window, peering through the shattered glass.

The bars were cut through after two hours' of dangerous work and the then half-unconscious man was dragged to the street. Beside him they found the unconscious body of William Sheehan, watchman, and the body of William Campion, who had died of suffocation.

Mr. Giblin was notified of the fire about 6 o'clock by telephone to his residence at No. 346 West Seventy-second street. According to the reports current at the fire he left his wife dying from a protracted illness and rushed down to the offices of his company to superintend the salvage of the books and other valuable papers and documents.

FIREMEN BEGIN RESCUE WORK.

When Mr. Giblin arrived the fire was as yet confined to the upper floors, and he thought that he and his assistants would have ample time to put the company's books in the fireproof vaults. While they were at work the floors of the building gave way and blocked the exit from the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company's offices. Mr. Giblin, William Sheehan and Campion, who was captain of the night watchmen, were completely cut off from escape.

The first firemen knew of the presence of these three in the vaults under the Mercantile Company's offices was at 7 o'clock, when several men were rescued from another part of the basement and told their saviors they believed others were caught under the fallen floors.

The heat forced the firefighters again and again from the building, but during one of the rushes to the side of the flaming structure several firemen heard faint cries for help coming from the broken basement windows. They reported the fact to Fire Commissioner Johnson, who was standing near, and the Commissioner jumped forward.

The Commissioner bent before the window and saw Trust Company President rearing between the bars.

"Cheer up, we'll get you out!" the Commissioner cried. The crowds on the sidewalks surged forward as word spread that a rescue was to be attempted, and the police had difficulty in holding the lines.

FIREMEN BRAVED FIRE AND WATER.

Commissioner Johnson called for a steel cutting saw. Fireman James Dunn of Engine Company No. 6 rushed for the implement. While he was gone Father McGean, Chaplain of the Fire Department, went to the window. Over his head a half dozen streams of icy water played against the seething walls.

Showers of stone fell about the young priest. Several small chips struck him and the deluge of icy water drenched him to the skin, but he stuck to the window until he had administered the last rites of the church.

Then Fireman Dunn returned with the saw. Chaplain McGean was pulled from the window and Dunn set to work. His comrades kept the streams of water playing about the wall above him and a half dozen men stood back.

The task Dunn had set out to accomplish was too great for one man. The bar he had to saw through was an inch and a half of solid steel. The little hand saw bit feebly with each stroke. For a half hour Dunn worked. Then he tottered back, nearly overcome by the heat and smoke, and Fireman Brown of Truck 1 rushed to take his place.

Brown shouted back that Giblin was still alive and clinging to the window sill. At the words Brown continued to shout encouragement to the imprisoned man. After another half hour Brown was forced to retire and Fireman Young of Truck 1 relieved him. The bar was cut half way through.

When Young was forced to give up the job thirty minutes later Fireman William Lark of Engine No. 30 took the saw.

By this time Commissioner Waldo and Inspector George McCluskey had taken up positions near the window, ready to lend their personal aid to Giblin when the bar was cut through.

Who Lost a Watch?

The World has received a letter dated Jan. 6, signed by Isaac Cohen, 1768 Prospect place, Brooklyn, stating that the writer found a ladies' watch on Eighty-seventh street on Christmas Eve. The watch contained a picture of two children.

Mr. Cohen explained that he has watched the "Lost & Found" advertisements in the Herald, Times, Sun and Tribune COMBINED, but they are always published conspicuously on page opposite editorial page mornings and on first page of Want Section Sundays.

It is plain that had the watch been advertised for in The World it would have been recovered by its owner some time ago.

World "Lost & Found" ads. not only get a circulation in New York City greater than the Herald, Times, Sun and Tribune COMBINED, but they are always published conspicuously on page opposite editorial page mornings and on first page of Want Section Sundays.

Rescue of William Giblin by Daring Firemen

Specially Photographed by an Evening World Staff Photographer.



WM. GIBLIN. RESCUE OF WM GIBLIN. CHIEF WALSH.

"I'll go in," he shouted. It was Dr. Giradansky of Gouveneur Hospital.

The young surgeon crawled into the opening, through which a volume of dense, black smoke was now pouring. Half dazed firemen, sheathed from head to foot in thick casings of ice, their helmets flaunting strange-shaped glistening icicles, stood at the window ready to lend their aid to the brave young doctor.

There was a long pause. Then Giradansky's face appeared. Over his back he had thrown the body of William Sheehan, watchman. The firemen helped the rescuer and rushed through the aperture and rushed them across the street to the Trinity Building, while the crowds cheered again.

Sheehan was quickly revived and taken to the hospital. He told his rescuers that he had tried to drag the body of the other dead watchman to the window, but had succumbed to the smoke. He, too, would have died in a few more moments.

Mrs. Giblin, who has been ill for several months, was not notified of the danger in which her husband had been. She will not be told of the fire and the dramatic rescue unless her condition greatly improves. It is expected that Giblin will be able to go to his home before night.

RESCUED MAN TELLS OF EXPERIENCE IN VAULT.

Sheehan's superior physique stood him in such good stead that after half an hour's treatment he had entirely recovered and was able to walk about the engine-room in the Trinity Building. The fingers of his right hand were broken, but after they had been set and bandaged in splints the rescued man lighted a cigar and sat chatting with his acquaintances, telling them the story of what had happened in the upper vault chamber of the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company.

"I came to work as usual at 7 o'clock I found Mr. Giblin there and Campion. They told me the building was on fire above us, but said we were not in immediate danger and could get to work putting the valuable papers in the vaults."

"We had started down the steps leading to the vaults when there was a great crash, and bricks, stones and mortar came tumbling about our heads. I felt myself falling, but I was saved. Then, when I tried to get up I found my right hand was caught in the piles of rock and I couldn't get it free. Smoke began pouring in and I thought I was going to choke to death."

"Beside me I saw Campion. He was half covered with the fallen bricks and stones. I touched him with my left hand and found he was dead. Then I heard Mr. Giblin's voice."

"Say a prayer, Sheehan," he said, and I said a prayer to St. Anthony. When I felt through the prayer I felt much better. It seemed to feel the prayer was going to be answered and that we would be saved. Mr. Giblin felt on his knees and seemed to be praying, too."

"Then the smoke got thicker and I coughed and coughed. Mr. Giblin went to the window and broke the glass. That is I think he broke it, but it may have fallen in just as he reached it. The flash of air sent the smoke back a little and I breathed more freely."

"While Mr. Giblin was at the window I heard him calling for help. Then I saw the face of a fireman in a helmet appear in the window. Pretty soon I heard a voice and looking up saw Father McGean, Chaplain of the Fire Department. He administered the last rites, but at the same time tried to cheer us up and said the firemen would try to saw through the bars and get us out."

The smoke began to get thicker and thicker, and every now and then there was a terrific crash somewhere in the building that shook us up, and every

minute I felt the entire building would cave in on us.

"The last thing I remember before I must have fainted was seeing the firemen bending back the bar. Then I came to and found some one digging my hand out of the wreckage. Then I felt myself being pushed and pulled through the window and found myself gulping in a fresh air. I never tasted anything as good as that first gulp of ice cold air."

Sheehan is married and has a baby seven months old at his home at No. 367 West Fifty-second street. As soon as he recovered he asked some one to telephone his wife that he was saved. Timothy Manning, one of those who had worked most desperately to save the life of Mr. Giblin, went raving mad soon after he had returned to his company. He was dragged to Hudson Street Hospital.

The body of Campion remained inside the vault room all day. Sheehan had evidently been mistaken in thinking the watchman dead for Campion succeeded in freeing himself from the pile of debris and crawled to a barred gate near the window through which Giblin and Sheehan were rescued. He reached the gate and grasped the bars in his hand. His dead body was seen by the firemen, but it was impossible to reach the man.

It was learned that Campion, the dead watchman, had been on duty all night in the offices of the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company. When the fire was discovered the policemen who turned in the alarm saw the watchman in the doorway of the company's offices on the main floor and warned him of his danger.

"My place is right here in these offices and I'll stick to it the last minute."

MRS. HARRIMAN GLAD ROADS DIDN'T BURN.

Widow of Railroad Wizard Calm When Told Records of Big System Aren't Destroyed.

As soon as was possible word was telephoned to Mrs. E. H. Harriman that all the records of the Harriman railway system, on the fourth floor of the Equitable Building, had been destroyed.

"Are they all gone? I mean, all that have not been removed before?" asked the widow of the railroad "wizard."

"That part of the structure is ruined," was the response.

"Well, let us be thankful the fire has not destroyed the railroads," was the response, and Mrs. Harriman hung up, saying she would be at the scene later. It is said that such papers as had a bearing on Edward H. Harriman's political activities and business relations with men in high political life from the time he was chairman of the time of his death were not in the fire.

NORTH DRIVE OF BRIDGE CLEARED FOR ENGINES.

When the Brooklyn apparatus reported to Chief Lally at the Brooklyn end of the bridge and was ordered to Manhattan the north drive of the bridge was closed except to the big engines which went thundering across in quick succession. The disturbance of traffic and the shutting off of the street cars to let the engines go by threw transportation into disorder all over Brooklyn and jammed the subway.

PHILES CURED IN 6 TO 14 DAYS. Your druggist will refund money if Phile's Ointment fails to cure any case of itching, Blain, Boils or Eruptions. Use in 6 to 14 days.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRACTICALLY QUITS ALL BUSINESS

Whole Financial District Affected by the Equitable Life Fire.

The burning of the Equitable Building had the effect of actually paralyzing business in the financial district. This was due to the fact that the Equitable Building was not only a landmark in the heart of the district, but it was one of the hubs in which the complicated operations of the financial center of the city are carried on.

One of the direct effects of the fire was to force an unprecedented action on the part of the Governors of the Stock Exchange. They issued an order suspending deliveries for the day. It was found that so many of the securities which figured in yesterday's Stock Exchange transactions were to have been delivered today were locked up in the vaults of the Equitable Building that great confusion would result were the rules enforced. These deliveries cannot be made now until the vaults are reached and opened. In the meantime some special rule will have to be adopted covering the trades of yesterday in securities that are isolated by the fire.

It is estimated that the securities in the vaults amount to \$50,000,000. Trading on the Stock Exchange was practically stopped. Everybody talked about the fire. One member created a lot of enthusiasm by suggesting that a fund be raised for the families of the firemen who were killed or injured in the blaze. The project was taken up at once and a substantial sum was soon realized.

FINANCIERS ORDER MEALS FOR THE FIREMEN.

The restaurant of the Stock Exchange was turned over to the half frozen firemen and meals and hot coffee were served there. J. Pierpont Morgan & Co., Raymond, Fitch & Co., J. B. Morgan & Co. and other firms in the vicinity of the Equitable Building served coffee and sandwiches to the firemen, policemen and clerks who were working to rescue books and papers from the burning building.

Supt. George C. Van Tuyl Jr. of the State Banking Department, was one of the first to offer aid to the unfortunate occupants of the Equitable Life Building. Supt. Van Tuyl formally extended on behalf of the Banking Department the accommodations of the Carnegie Safe Deposit Company vaults to the tenants of the Equitable Life Building who had been inconvenienced by the fire. The Carnegie Safe Deposit Company vaults are being operated by the State Banking Department, which took them over in September last.

The Bankers' Trust Company made its morning clearings at its main office and arranged to reopen the Mercantile Branch at No. 7 Wall street. The officers of the company declared that, so far as they knew, their vaults were intact.

The Fourth National and Hanover National banks, in the immediate vicinity of the fire, as well as the Chase National, opened for business. The American National, compelled to close its main office, opened temporarily at No. 16 Broadway.

The clearing house operates in the Chamber of Commerce. The fire in the Equitable Life Building caused the various banks in the city to abandon the clearing house on Cedar street, just opposite the destroyed building. There was great anxiety in the different banking institutions until word was received that the clearings for the day would be made in the Chamber of Commerce on Liberty.

The clerks and officials appeared at the new location and for a time there was much confusion. Every one was late and the usual order of procedure was abandoned and the roll called two or three times instead of once to see how many banks were represented. It was a somewhat chaotic scene. The American Exchange Bank would be unable to make its clearing, as it was unable to get into its vaults; but later the bank's representatives put in an appearance and were able to conduct its business as usual with some delay. The clearances amounted to over \$30,000,000.

Traffic on the Broadway surface line was tied up early in the morning, but before 8 o'clock the way to the city was open. A cloud of smoke was pouring in from the fire, and the narrow streets in a few minutes were filled with the smoke. The fire was seen at and heard at, they said, from the city. It was an abnormal and thanks to this new discovery of a new way to the city.

Nearly all business comes from roof foot traffic. This fact is not enough, but the fact that the fire was seen at and heard at, they said, from the city. It was an abnormal and thanks to this new discovery of a new way to the city.

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WATCHER NEARLY KILLED AS HEAT FIRES REVOLVER

Bullet Whizzes Across Street From Third Floor of Burning Building.

While the employees of the American Surety Company and others in the building at No. 100 Broadway packed the windows on the Pine street side and watched the progress of the fire a peculiar incident happened that nearly resulted in a fatality.

A revolver left on a desk on the third floor of the burning building exploded from the heat, a line of bullets flew through the window, sped across Pine street and whizzed by the head of A. H. Picher, a clerk in the Agency Department of the American Surety Company.

As Picher heard the bullet whistle past he turned and saw a box of envelopes on the desk behind him go hurtling through the air and land with a bang against the far wall. He found the bullet embedded in the envelope.

PACIFICS OPENED NEW OFFICES DURING FIRE.

"We beat the fire to it," was the way an official of the Southern Pacific Railroad explained how his company came to be the first of the burned out tenants to secure new quarters.

"We had anticipated removing from our quarters in the Equitable Building and had already fitted quarters at No. 100 Broadway. We had our telephones installed and were doing business here long before the fire which destroyed our old offices was under control."

"All of the Union and Southern Pacific securities held in the treasury of these companies are kept outside of the city," said President Robert F. Lovett of the Union and Southern Pacific in discussing conditions arising from the fire in the Equitable Building. "The monetary loss to the railroad will be very small, and the extent of the inconvenience suffered because of loss of records will, of course, depend upon whether the vaults on the third and fourth floors of the burned building have been destroyed."

The Northern Pacific Railroad secured quarters in the building at No. 100 Broadway, also, and had new telephones installed and was doing business at the regular hour to-day.

J. R. Pollock, division commercial manager of the Bell Telephone Company, had his office in the building within an hour after the fire started to relocate firms which had been burned out and wanted new telephones installed.

THIN FOLKS ENTHUSIASTIC OVER REAL FLESH BUILDER.

FREE 50c. BOX TO PROVE IT.

Remarkable Record of New Treatment That Makes Skinny Men and Women Plump and Attractive—Successful in Over 100,000 Cases.

The scientist, scientist or woman can now "fill out," become plump—yes actually fat, and all by a simple, harmless, and delicious, which improves the complexion, and is backed up by a positive guarantee of success in every case.

To be thin and bony is unnatural, unhealthy and a disgrace to the human race. Thin people are sneered at and looked at, they are called "stick figures," "flat as a pancake," and "like a dried apple." It is a disgrace to be thin, and it is a disgrace to be bony.

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